

**Minutes of Kingston Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 07 January 2019
in The Barn, Kingston**

Present:-

Cllr Martin (Chairman)
Cllr Osborn (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Spencer (Acting Clerk)
Cllr Pearson
Cllr Stribbling
Cllr Wakefield

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 19.30.
There was one member of the public present.

795. It was **Resolved** that Cllr Spencer would be Acting Clerk for the duration of this meeting. This was proposed by Cllr Pearson and seconded by Cllr Stribbling. There were no objections.

796. Apologies and Approval of Absences

There were none.

797. Reports from County and City Council members

City Cllr Cook offered the following updates:

It was noted that Kent County Council has installed bollards on Bonny Bush Hill in a bid to deter the illegal parking of lorries and destruction of vegetation. It is hoped that the land will recover in due course and that the amount of litter in the area will decrease.

It was reported that there remain ongoing health and safety concerns with lorries that visit the Gomez site; be that inappropriate parking or manoeuvring. There has been a disappointing lack of engagement to date but City Cllr Cook will persevere in tackling this.

Further to Cllr Osborn's previous action point asking when the next conservation area / AONB review is due, City Cllr Cook confirmed that:

- Reviews of AONB areas are driven by the AONB Unit. City planners are not aware of any pending review.
- City planners have mooted the idea of reviewing conservation areas (particularly ensuring they're all fit for purpose as some are perhaps larger than needed) but this is on hold due to the current rate of planning applications in the system. They will, however, give consideration to any suggestions or recommendations for variation.

Councillors were reminded that the question of why the entire village does not fall within the conservation area was probably sparked by a villager seeking protection against 'undesirable' development. However, it was noted that living within a conservation area can also mean problems/complications for residents seeking to undertake work to their property.

City Cllr Cook has agreed to obtain further advice so that the Council and residents can consider the pros and cons before making any recommendations for possible change. It was suggested that compiling a 'Village Framework' might be helpful in explicitly stating what the village puts a value on in terms of landscape.

City Cllr Cook reported that the Quinn Estates' proposals for Highland Court are likely to go to the Planning Committee next month.

Due to the fact that County Cllr Northey was absent for ongoing health reasons, no reports were received from him. Councillors enquired as to County Cllr Northey's health and again expressed warm sentiments.

798. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest regarding items on the Agenda.

799. Public Forum

There were no questions from the public.

800. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 03 December 2018 were agreed to be a true reflection of all that was discussed. Proposed by Cllr Stribbling and seconded by Cllr Osborn, it was therefore **Resolved** to accept these as a correct record and they were duly signed.

801. Matters Arising

It was noted that the review of litter bins in the village has taken place and that the Council should receive an official list of locations from SERCO shortly.

802. Planning Applications Considered

CA//18/02531 proposed single-storey side extension following demolition of single-storey extension and open-fronted store: Broadfield Covet Lane, Kingston, CT4 6HU

A few amendments to the internal plans were noted when compared with the previous application made in 2017. However, there were no objections.

CA//18/02596 proposed domestic freestanding solar PV array, consisting of 21 panels: Puds Meadow, Marley Lane, Kingston, CT4 6JH

This application was received only today. Councillors discussed the plans in full and it was agreed that there were no immediate concerns. However, Councillors will be given a week to fully consider the proposals before an official response is submitted.

803. Planning Application Decisions

CA//18/00446 proposed erection of a dwelling with basement and extension (incorporating parts of the existing stable building within the new structure): Whitelocks Barn, The Street, Kingston, CT4 6JQ

It was noted that the Planning Committee met on the 11 December 2018. The full Officers Report can be viewed online. In summary, the proposed development was deemed not to 'promote the distinctive character of the village' and that it would instead result in the

‘unacceptable spread of residential form beyond the prevailing ribbon of residential development towards the countryside behind’.

804. Finance

One cheque (669) was approved for payment (29/11/2018 - Hire of Committee Room, Barham Village Hall - £6.00. Clerk’s Interview). Proposed by Cllr Stribbling and seconded by Cllr Pearson, it was therefore **Resolved** to sign the cheque.

Cllr Martin reported that the Precept for 2019/20 has now been requested. This is the only income to be expected; there will be no additional government grants in future.

Cllr Martin reported that she has spoken to Lloyds Bank to regularise the Council’s bank account arrangements:

- All correspondence will be sent to Cllr Martin from henceforth
- Signatories have been updated – those no longer valid have been removed
- Paper bank statements have been requested

805. Co-option of Councillor

A Kingston resident, Paul Chatley, has put himself forward to be co-opted having decided not to apply for the position of Clerk. Paul has previously sat on the Village Hall Trust. Proposed by Cllr Pearson and seconded by Cllr Osborn, it was **Resolved** to invite Paul to our next meeting for formal co-option.

806. Re-advertisement of Clerk/Responsible Finance Offer

It was unanimously agreed to run the advert via KALC as before. The new deadline will be 15 February 2019. Cllr Osborn will ensure arrangements are made for the advert to be placed online.

It was noted that there is one outstanding expression of interest but it is not yet known whether this person will make an application.

807. Feedback from Chairmanship Conference

Cllr Martin attended the meeting held on the 13 December 2018. The KALC President’s update included reference to the following:

- Future changes regarding website accessibility (as a consequence, we are likely to need to review our own)
- Health and community developments in relation to Brexit and the role of volunteers
- The developing roles of local councils and there being increased opportunities to take a lead on local ‘projects’
- The drive to increase participation in the forthcoming local elections

A discussion ensued regarding Brexit and the importance of road signage for lorries should there be ‘no deal’. Councillors expressed concerns that lorries are likely to look for diversions along unsuitable country lanes. It was also noted that the Kingston Emergency Planning numbers will need reviewing in case roads become overly congested and elderly residents are unable to buy essential supplies in town.

808. Emails received:

- a) KALC: 6/12 Brexit Preparedness – KCC Update
- b) KALC: 11/12 National Salary Scales 2019-20
- c) KALC: 12/12 Chief Executive's Bulletin
- d) KALC: 12/12 Kent Police – Rural Matters magazine
- e) KALC: 12/12 KCC Public Health Media Release
- f) KALC: 12/12 KALC Community Awards Scheme 2019
- g) KCC: 13/12 Inside Track (funding sources)
- h) KALC: 14/12 National CSSC Green Message
- i) KALC: 17/12 NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin
- j) KALC: 19/12 KALC News (needs member login)
- k) KALC: 20/12 Kent PCC's Newsletter
- l) KALC: 20/12 NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin

809. Matters for Further Discussion

Cllr Martin reported that Lyn Collins of Nailbourne Close was awarded the British Empire Medal in the 2019 New Year Honours list. It was unanimously agreed that a letter of congratulations should be sent by the Council.

810. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 04 February 2019 at 19.30 in The Barn, Kingston

The meeting closed at 20.45.